



ATTORNEYS AT LAW



Robert Greene Sterne
Edward J. Kessler
Jorge A. Goldstein
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Tracy-Genia G. Durkin
Michele A. Cimbala
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Andrea J. Kamage
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Jon E. Wright*

LuAnne M. Yuricek*
John J. Figueiroa
Ann E. Summerfield
Registered Patent Agents*
Karen R. Markowicz
Nancy J. Leith
Helene C. Carlson
Gaby L. Longsworth
Matthew J. Dowd
Aaron L. Schwartz
Angelique G. Uy
Mary B. Tung
Katrina Y. Pei
Bryan L. Skelton
Robert A. Schwartzman
Timothy A. Doyle
Jennifer R. Mahalingappa

7/14/03
Teresa A. Colella
Jeffrey S. Anderson
Victoria S. Ruthergood
Eric D. Hayes

Of Counsel
Kenneth C. Bass III
Lisa A. Dunner
Evan R. Smith

*Admitted only in Maryland
•Admitted only in Virginia
•Practice Limited to
Federal Agencies

July 14, 2003

WRITER'S DIRECT NUMBER:
(202) 772-8856

INTERNET ADDRESS:
BCARROLL@SKGF.COM

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Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Re: U.S. Utility Patent Application
Appl. No. 09/076,115; Filed: May 12, 1998
For: **Methods for Production and Purification of Nucleic
Acid Molecules**
Inventors: Gruber, *et al.*
Our Ref: 0942.4350001/RWE/B-C

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for appropriate action are the following documents:

1. Supplemental Preliminary Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.115 in the Revised Format of the Pre-OG Notice Dated January 31, 2003; and
2. One (1) return postcard.

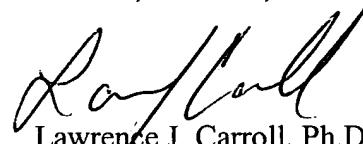
It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the date of filing of these documents, and that it be returned to our courier. In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

Commissioner for Patents
July 14, 2003
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The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



Lawrence J. Carroll, Ph.D.
Agent for Applicants
Registration No. 40,940

RWE/B-C:law
Enclosures

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